

FRIDAY, DEC. 1, 1900

At the beginning of the Nineteenth century, 1801, the United States had a population of 3,308,000, less than a third that of the British Isles, half that of France, less than one-fifth that of Russia. One century after the United States has 76,000,000 nearly two-thirds that of Russia which is the only nation of those mentioned which is ahead of her. The population of the United States at the beginning of the Twentieth century is nearly twice that of the British Isles, just twice that of France, nearly twice that of Austria-Hungary, over a third more than Germany, three times as much as Italy, over four times that of Spain and nearly three times that of Turkey. The career of America has been amazing. Her genius may be said to be the coming sun that will lighten and warm the darkest corners of the earth. Events are shaping her course and leading her on to her destiny. The hand of an unseen pilot is guiding her.

The protective policy of the government will be continued. The sugar tariff is not likely to be disturbed. The policy of the national government toward Porto Rico which was the wise one of avoiding a precedent for the future free admission of sugar, has been indorsed by the people by the most emphatic vote ever given in the history of this country. The approval of the present economic policy of the government has been so overwhelming that it will require a daring disregard of the popular will to make any material changes in the future. Conditions are assured, capital need no longer be timid. It is time to set actively to work erecting the best sugar plants which have been projected. Other conditions seem to conspire with the political one to make the prospects for the beet sugar industry most encouraging.

The federal treasury is bulging with gold, the cash assets being over \$10,000,000 in excess of liabilities, and yet there is a larger amount of money outside of the treasury in circulation in the hands of the people than ever before. On October 1st the aggregate was \$2,115,294,983—equivalent to a per capita holding of \$37.01.

The United States is coming to be regarded among the nations as the treasure house of the world. Germany has borrowed of our surplus capital, and Denmark is trying to negotiate a \$15,000,000 loan for the cities of Copenhagen.

Increase Capital Stock.

According to the Saginaw Evening News the United States Benevolent Society of that city will soon be reorganized under the name of the United States Health and Accident Insurance with a fully paid up stock of \$200,000. This company will succeed to the business of the Benevolent society and will continue it along the same lines extending the scope and enlarging the field for which the new society is practically unlimited, being bounded only by the extent of the country. The entire \$200,000 capital stock of the new company will be invested in United States bonds, which will be deposited with the state treasurer at Lansing, and the policy holders will, in this shape, have the finest kind of security to the extent of \$200,000 above that already maintained for them. There are a large number of policy holders in the company here and it will be very pleasing for them to learn of the increased capitalization.

A Valuable Book Free.

The Detroit Free Press offers until further notice a copy of The Free Press Year Book and Encyclopedia absolutely free to all who subscribe for The Twice-A-Week Detroit Free Press for one year, at the regular subscription price of \$1.00. The book will contain over 350 pages of useful information on 10,000 subjects; a correct, concise and complete record of the events of 1900.

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The Twice-A-Week Free Press is conceded to be Michigan's leading newspaper. It is published on Tuesday and Friday, and is almost equal to a daily. It is up-to-date in every department.

The book will be published about December 27, 1900, it being impossible to get it out earlier on account of getting complete records of 1900 events, and will be mailed as soon after above date as possible.

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White and Marsh Pardoned

Pingree Commits another Political Suicide.

"Was the Governor in the deal?" is Now a Grave Question.

General White, of the state steel deal, was sentenced last Monday to ten years at hard work in the state prison at Jackson, was taken to his deserved home Tuesday morning and dressed in the criminal stripes. His pardon on Tuesday by Gov. Pingree was no surprise to the people of the state. At the same time he pardons Arthur Marsh who was convicted of the same crime. The governor ties a string to the unjust pardon that they shall pay to the treasurer of Ingham county \$1,000 a year each for five years. The people in general around the state are very indignant with the governor and are generally of the opinion that he has abused his authority and committed his political suicide. White pleaded guilty to as grave a charge as any man ever committed of the kind. He was unquestionably guilty of a deep laid plot to rob the state and why should he not serve his time as other criminals? Is he better than the horse thief or the house breaker? White's trial and everything connected with it shows that there are others connected with the deal, the bottom of which and the gang connected, will now probably never be found. The deal is a disgrace to the state and Pingree has lent his hand to the disgrace by his actions in pardoning them. Such steals have gone on long enough in Michigan and should be brought up standing, but if such acts on the part of a governor continue, it will be a very fashionable deed to rob the state. Pingree not being satisfied with the dastardly act he opens up and screeches Judge Weist and Prosecuting Attorney Tuttle who conducted the trial in an impartial manner and have won for themselves the respect and admiration of the decent people of the state. They both did their duty and are upheld by the people.

Literary Notes.

The December issue of the Woman's Home Companion certainly makes good its claims to be a "Christmas Number," for in it are printed five Christmas stories and nine articles, giving various suggestions appropriate to the Christmas season. The number opens with an article on Elizabeth, Queen of Roumania—one of the Companion's contributors for 1901—whose fairy stories have made her famous as "Carmen Sylva." "The Art Treasures of the White House," "Holiday Week at an Army Post," Lillian Bell's description of Salzburg and her descent into a salt mine, and the final installment of Francis Lynde's novel, "The Plutocrats," are other features that contribute toward making the number one of unusual interest.

The Christmas Ladies' Home Journal offers a superabundance of literary and artistic features in the most attractive form. Among its nearly two-score contributors are Mrs. Lew Wallace, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Charles Major, William Perrine, Clifford Howard and Elizabeth Lincoln Gould, while A. B. Frost, W. L. Taylor, Reginald B. Birch, Henry Hutt, George Gibbs and as many other illustrators supply its pictorial features. Apart from the articles having special holiday timeliness of interest, the notable features of the Christmas Journal include "The Innkeeper's Daughter Who Dissolved a President's Cabinet," "What May Happen in the Next Hundred Years," "Jerusalem as We See it To-Day," "Two Women's Gifts of Twenty-Five Millions," "The Little Men Play," a dramatization of Louis M. Alcott's delightful story, "Where Children See Saint Nick," "The Fourteenth Man," "Two Christmas Days at Rock Farm," and "The Successors of Mary the First," "The Story of a Young Man," and "The Blue River Bear Stories," which are continued. Edward Bok has a thoughtful article on Christmas celebration, and there are various articles on women's wear, Christmas presents and edibles, while various other practical, helpful themes are ably presented.

The world has never known a more dramatic situation than that presented by the foreign community within the walls of Peking while cut off from communications with their countrymen. During those long, doubtful weeks, the most interesting figure in this international tragedy was Sir Robert Hart, who for more than twenty-five years has been as far as a European might, the statesman guiding the affairs of the Chinese Empire. Those familiar in any degree with Eastern conditions hoped, after the relief of Peking, that Sir Robert would break his long rule of silence and give to the world his story of the events which led to the closing of the gates of the British Legation, and his views as to the policies which should prevail in the settlement of the difficult question which has arisen. On the 17th of October, the following cable-message from Sir Robert's London representative to the editor of The Cosmopolitan was received: "Sir Robert Hart has sent for November number fortnightly,

London, and Cosmopolitan, New York, an important article on the siege of Peking, about fifteen thousand words, which I will post you to-morrow." The MS. arrived in time to be included in the December issue. It will be read with the deepest interest, both by statesmen and the general public. The Cosmopolitan has been highly honored by Sir Robert Hart in his selection of the American magazine through which this valuable contribution to the history of the world is given publicity.

ANNUAL CANADIAN EXCURSIONS VIA GRAND TRUNK R. Y. SYSTEM.

The popular annual 20 day excursion to Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick will this year be given by the Grand Trunk Railway System on December 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th and tickets will be valid up to and including January 5th, 1901. The Grand Trunk Railway, in calling your attention to their annual cheap excursions, desire to remind you that it is the only line running three trains daily from Detroit and Port Huron to Canadian ports and is the only line running Pullman sleepers and parlor cars through to London, Hamilton, Toronto, and Montreal. Apply to all Grand Trunk agents, or of Ben. Fletcher, traveling passenger agent, Detroit.

RAINED BATS AND HAWKS.

Bats Blew Aboard the Ship from the East, and the Hawks from the West.

The steamship Curityba, which arrived at New York the other day from Cuban ports, had a weird experience with winged things on her trip up the coast. When she was off Matanzas an off-shore gale, permeated with tropical moisture, piled the combers about her. On the blast came thousands of land birds and big bats. Mate Bregman says the bats literally covered the ship, roosting on all the rails. He says they appeared to be a "cross between a vampire and a squirrel." When the weather moderated and dawn came the bats were near enough to one of the Bahamas to venture leaving the ship. A hundred or more miles off Florida the Curityba was visited by what the seventh mate, who is English, declares was a flock of "heagles." The eighth mate says he believes they were "howls," and the ninth mate positively asserts that they were "hawks." Whatever they may be called, Capt. Hoppe and his men captured two of them, which measure, according to the new ultramarine reporter who was sent out by the ship news experts to get the yarn, "about eight feet from tip to tip." There were altogether 20 eagles or hawks or owls in the flock.

FEW PEOPLE LIVE IN LONDON.

The Night Population of the City Proper is Decreasing Very Rapidly.

London city proper is losing the little popularity it once enjoyed as a place of residence. In 1861 it had a population of 112,000; to-day it has but a quarter of that number. These figures, of course, represent the night population of the city—those who sleep within the limits of the old city. During the same time the day population—those who do business or perform labor in the city, has increased. In 1861 it was 170,133; in 1901, 301,354. Those who have walked across London bridge about nine o'clock in the morning do not need to be told about the vast stream of humanity which flows cityward at that hour. But it is almost incredible that no fewer than 2,300,000 persons enter the city during a single period of 24 hours. The present number for 1891 was 1,186,491, and the succeeding ten years must have brought the figure up to 2,500,000. One cannot help regretting that the permanent population should have sunk so low. No wonder the numerous and beautiful churches are so empty. The city is now little more than a congestion of warehouses and shops. The change is particularly noticeable in such streets as Bread-street, where John Milton was born and the Mermaid tavern once flourished. But those were in the days when the green fields were near and Potten was a country suburb.

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